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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
FRB-03 OMB-01 ARA-06 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /090 W
----------140934Z 111086 /21
R 131511Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3710

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD
SUBJECT: UN SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS: INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH CUBA

1. SUMMARY. US DEL MET INFORMALLY WITH CUBAN DELEGATION EVENING OF MAY 11. DISCUSSIN WAS GENERAL; CUBANS OUTLINED SOME OF THEIR POSITIONS ON SEVERAL BASIC ISSUES (BETS, PRICES, AND SPECIAL ARRANGMENTS). ASIDE FROM POINTS ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, LITTLE NEW GROUND WAS COVERED. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL US DELS MET WITH CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES (CABRISAS, BETHANCOURT, TABIO AND RICO) AT CUBAN REQUEST. THE DISCUSSIONS WAS CONGENIAL AND DOMINTED BY CABRISAS. ON EXPORT QUOTAS, CUBAN SAID THAT MARKET SHARING PROPOSAL WAS TOO DISRUPTIVE; THAT THEIR BET APPROACH WAS THE ONLY SOLUTION AT THIS POINT OF THE CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT CUBANS ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND OR ACCEPT AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF REPRSENTATIONAT CONFERENCE ANY IDEA WHICH VARIES GREATLYFROM 1968 AGREEMENT.)US DEL INFORMED CUBANS THAT USG WOULD NOT ACCEPT AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT EFFECTIVELY PROTECT FLOOR PRICE.

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3. ON PRICES, CUBANS STATED THAT THEY KNEW US WAS INTER-ESTED IN 10 CENT PER POUND FLOOR. THEY FELT THAT FLOOR WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT HIGHER, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED THAT CUBANS WILL NOT PUSH FOR 15 CENT FLOOR.

4. MAJOR PORTION OF MEETING WAS TAKEN UP BY CUBAN EXPLANATION OF THEIR VIEW OF SPECIAL ARRANGMENTS. AFTER

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THE USUAL EXPLANATION OF IMPORTANCE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS, CUBANS OUTLINED THEIR PLAN TO HANDLE SOCIALIST SUGAR TRADE. CUBANS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE NEGOTIATING WITH USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES; CUBANS ARE PROPOSING THAT THOSECOUNTRIES ACCEPT FIXED GROSS EXPORT TONNAGES. BY GROSS TONNAGES, CUBANS MEANT THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR FROM WHERE SUGAR WAS IMPORTED BY THE VARIOUS SOCIALIST COUNTRIEES, THESE COUNTRIES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXPORT A PREDETERMINED TONNAGE. ALSO, THESE COUNTRIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DECLARE SHORTFALLS. CUBANS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS IN SELLING THIS IDEA TO THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEANS. (COMMENT: CUBANS ALMOST SEEMED TO BE REQUESTING HELP FROM US DEL TO PROMOTE THIS APPROACH.)

5. US DEL (O'DONNELL) STATED US WAS DISAPPOINTEDBY LACK OF PROGRESS AND THAT, WHILE WE HAD EARLIER BEEN OPTIMISTIC, WE WERE NOW PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT. CUBANS NOTED OUR VIEWS, BUT DID NOT COMMENT.SORENSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ETRD, CU, UNCTAD
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